

Honor Award. Members of the Molly Stark Chapter of the DAR in Manchester, NH, nominated him to receive this distinction.

John was one of millions of Americans who, in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks, wanted to serve his Nation and fellow countrymen. Having worked extensively in different phases of the construction industry, he sought an opportunity to give back by helping wounded soldiers return to home life.

Unable to find an existing organization that would allow him to volunteer his construction and homebuilding skills, John took action and founded a nonprofit organization that would—Homes for Our Troops. The group, which is based in Taunton, works to build or adapt residences across the country for injured veterans at no cost to these individuals.

American soldiers have left the comfort of home for the perils of faraway battlefields to protect our country and to spread freedom in the world. It is critical that these brave men and women know that their fellow citizens support them—and will continue to do so long after their active duty service is over. John's work to establish Homes for Our Troops helps represent a solemn promise: that the American people will neither forget, nor cease to be grateful, for the courage of our heroic soldiers.

By returning seriously injured veterans to the normalcy of home life as quickly as possible, we honor their enormous sacrifices for our country. Homes for Our Troops performs an invaluable role in this national effort, coordinating donations of money, labor and materials to ensure that seriously injured veterans' homes are handicapped accessible. This work, which contributes conspicuously to the quality of life for severely wounded soldiers, represents the best of the American spirit.

John Gonsalves' patriotism sets an example for all Americans. I join his friends, supporters and members of the DAR's Molly Stark Chapter in commending his praiseworthy efforts on behalf of our veterans, and congratulate him on being selected to receive this prestigious award.●

#### KATHLEEN MIRABILE RECEIVES OUTSTANDING TEACHER OF AMERICAN HISTORY AWARD

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and commend an outstanding teacher from New Hampshire, Kathleen Mirabile, winner of the Daughters of the American Revolution, DAR, Outstanding Teacher of American History Award.

Mrs. Mirabile has dedicated the past 45 years to teaching Social Studies and U.S. History in two public high schools in Manchester, NH. She continues to share her in-depth understanding of the democratic system of government in our country with students every year.

Throughout her 45 years in the Manchester school system, she has come to intimately understand and personify the concept of living history as she has opened students' minds to endless possibilities. She subscribes to the theory that in order to be loyal to our country today, one must be keenly aware of the history that has shaped the extraordinary foundation upon which our country and our government were built. She has made it her goal to ensure students understand the impact that history has on them today and, conversely, the impact that today will have on history.

Entrenched in her belief that every citizen ought to be a student of U.S. history, Mrs. Mirabile has remained a student throughout her entire teaching career—completing graduate studies at the University of New Hampshire and Boston College, as well as participating in countless educational conferences, institutes, and fellowship programs ranging from the National Endowment for the Humanities to Harvard University, allowing her to further her own education as a student while simultaneously enriching her teaching knowledge.

Mrs. Mirabile has taken her passion for history outside of the classroom and required school hours. Beyond her role as a teacher in the high school classroom, Mrs. Mirabile has shared her time and her life with members of the Granite State community by participating and assuming important leadership and advisory roles in numerous educational societies, extracurricular activities, and professional organizations, furthering her own development and gaining the respect and friendship of her students and peers alike.

Teachers like Mrs. Mirabile exemplify the greatest asset in the educational system in our country—dedicated and devoted teachers who take tremendous pride in preparing generations of students to participate in the American dream. Her commitment to her students and the entire community serves as a great role model for everyone around her, and she certainly is deserving of the DAR Outstanding Teacher of American History Award. I congratulate her on this recognition and commend her for her excellence in teaching and the overwhelmingly positive effect she has had on her students and her community.●

● Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I also wish to recognize an outstanding teacher from New Hampshire who will be honored next month with the Daughters of the American Revolution's, DAR, Outstanding Teacher of American History Award.

Kathleen Mirabile has taught history and social studies in Manchester, New Hampshire's public schools for nearly four decades. Through her strong commitment to lifelong learning, Mrs. Mirabile has inspired generations of students in the Queen City. Having contributed conspicuously to the life of

her community, Mrs. Mirabile has earned the respect of her peers and students—which is reflected in her nomination by the DAR's Molly Stark Chapter in Manchester to receive this prestigious national award.

A democratic nation such as ours requires informed, active citizens who are able to think critically about complex issues. Knowledge and understanding of American history is therefore essential to ensuring a thoughtful citizenry that is capable of the responsibility of self-government. During her long service as a teacher, at Manchester High School Central and Manchester Memorial High School, Mrs. Mirabile has worked to convey these enduring truths as part of her classroom instruction.

Mindful of the necessity of being prepared to compete in today's society, Mrs. Mirabile has set high standards for her students. Although she has taught students who represent a range of academic ability—including those in her advanced placement U.S. history course—Mrs. Mirabile has consistently pushed them to achieve beyond their limits. In doing so, she has helped her students to mature as learners and as individuals.

A central component of Mrs. Mirabile's approach to teaching—one that distinguishes her—has been to remain a student of history herself. As part of that commitment, she completed graduate studies at the University of New Hampshire and at Boston College; additionally, Mrs. Mirabile has pursued study through the National Endowment for the Humanities, the U.S. Department of Education, and at Harvard University. These experiences have broadened her knowledge, and have helped to make her a more thoughtful, engaging teacher.

Mrs. Mirabile also brings her extensive experience working with the Manchester Historic Association, MHA, to the classroom. Manchester, which was home to the world famous Amoskeag Mills, is a city that is rich in history and culture. As an MHA leader, Mrs. Mirabile has taken her intimate knowledge of Manchester and made the City a history classroom for her students. Through such hands-on learning, Mrs. Mirabile's students are shown that history lessons are not confined to text books; that history is alive in our communities.

Having distinguished herself as a talented and committed educator who has made a difference in the lives of her students, Mrs. Mirabile has set a standard to which other teachers may aspire. I am pleased to join her many friends and admirers—at Central High School, in the city of Manchester, and with the Molly Stark Chapter—in extending congratulations to her for being honored by the DAR for a long career of excellence in teaching.●